GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1904
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2016
Per Capita Availability of Drinking Water
Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of households in the rural areas getting 40 litres of drinking water per capita per day as stipulated under the guidelines of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme;
(b) the reasons for remaining households not getting the said quantity of drinking water; and
(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure availability of requisite quantity of drinking water in the rural areas within a definite timeframe?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)
(a) The number of rural households in the country is 17.61 Crore. This Ministry monitors the coverage in terms of population or habitations but not in terms of households. The rural population getting at least 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) safe drinking water is 65.18 crore which is 72.27% of the total rural population in the country.

(b) Providing drinking water to the rural population is an ongoing process. The reasons for remaining households not getting stipulated amount of drinking water are many, the primary being the increase in population of a habitation resulting in decrease in per capita availability of drinking water, slippages of habitations from fully covered status to partially covered status due to the water supply schemes in an area getting defunct, non-availability / drying of source for providing 40 lpcd and the increased level of bacteriological or chemical contamination affecting the potable drinking water supply.

(c) Rural Water Supply is a State subject. The Ministry has chalked out a Strategic Plan for the rural drinking water sector for the period 2011-2022 which stresses on extending the piped water supply to more households in the rural areas. The interim goal till 2017 is to cover 50% of all rural households with piped water supply and 35% of rural households with household connections. By 2022, the goal is to cover 90% of rural households with piped water supply and 80% of rural households with household connections. For this, this Ministry supplements the efforts of the State Governments for rural drinking water supply by providing technical & financial assistance through Central Sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) as per the budgetary allocation for the same.
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